

Section 11: Basic Control Skills

The purpose of the basic control skills test is to evaluate your ability to control a vehicle and judge its position in relation to other objects. It tests the skills that are essential for the safe control of a vehicle. It doesn't matter that you may never perform these specific maneuvers on your job. The same types of judgements and control skills are required in many different driving situations that you can expect to encounter while operating a commercial vehicle.

Your basic control skills will be tested using the following exercises:

- Forward stop and straight line back
- Alley dock
- Right turn

These maneuvers are not optional. You must be able to complete all exercises to pass this test and obtain your CDL.

Be sure that you can perform these maneuvers (*in the type of vehicle you will use for the test*) prior to taking the test.

THIS SECTION COVERS:

- Skills Test Scoring
- Skills Test Exercises

The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error. The examiner will also score the number of times you stop and change direction (pull up) during the exercise.

11.1 SCORING Crossing Boundaries Pull-ups

Driving errors will be explained to you prior to the beginning of each exercise. For some exercises, your final vehicle position will be scored.

You will be asked to drive forward between two rows of cones and bring your vehicle to a complete stop within 2 feet of the exercise boundary marked by an end line or set of cones without going beyond the line or cones. The width of the maneuver is 12 feet. The length of the maneuver from the start to the stop line is 100 feet.

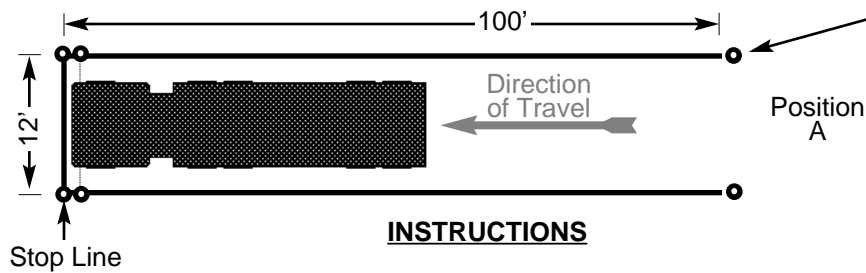
11.2 EXERCISES - Forward Stop & Straight Line Back

You will then pull forward until your rear bumper is past the exercise boundary. The examiner will tell you when to stop, and will then ask you to back your vehicle in a straight line between the two rows of cones without touching or crossing over the exercise boundaries.

The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error. The examiner will also score the number of times you stop and change direction during the exercise.

See figure 11-1.

FORWARD STOP AND STRAIGHT-LINE BACK



Note mandatory placement of six cones to define boundaries.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. From outside the boundary lines (position A) drive forward between the lines. Stop within two feet of the stop line without going past it.
2. Drive forward until the vehicle is clear of the boundary lines.
3. Back through the boundary lines until the vehicle is in its original starting point outside of the boundary lines (Position A).

Figure 11-1

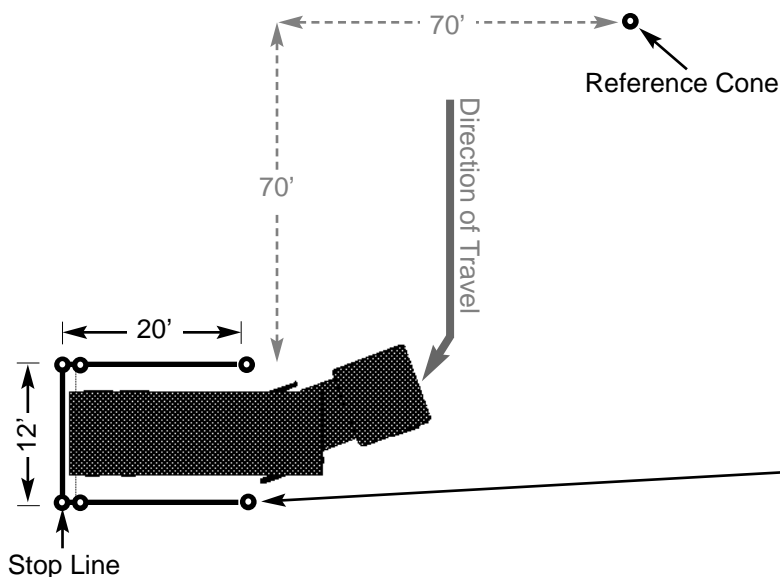
You will be asked to sight-side back your vehicle into an alley, bringing the rear of your vehicle within 2 feet of the rear of the alley without going beyond it. The alley dock dimensions are 12 feet wide by 20 feet deep.

- Alley Dock

The examiner will score the number of times you touch or cross over an exercise boundary line with any portion of your vehicle. Each encroachment will count as an error. The examiner will also score the number of times you stop and change direction during the exercise.

See figure 11-2.

ALLEY DOCK



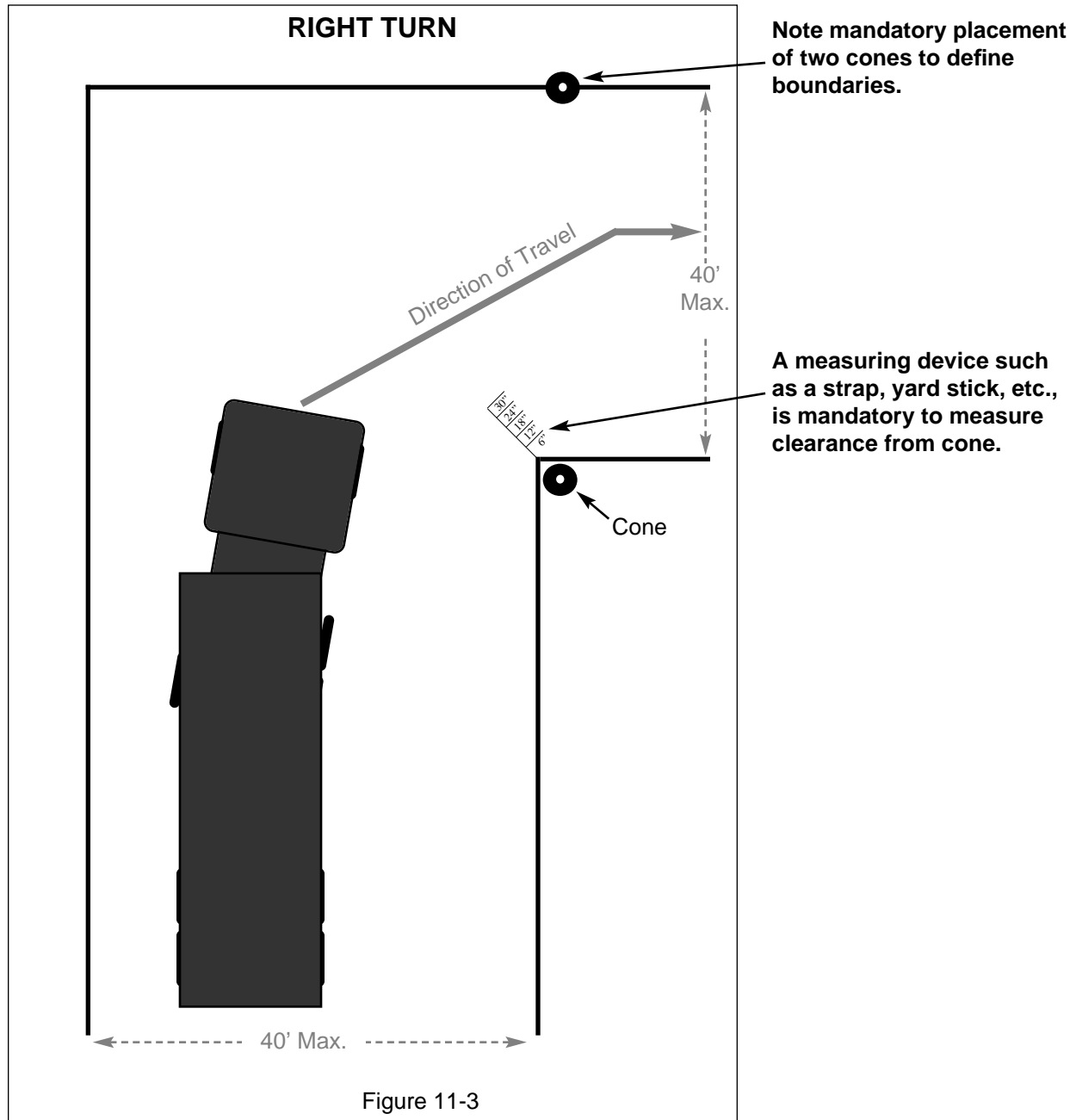
Note mandatory placement of seven cones to define boundaries.

Figure 11-2

You will be asked to drive forward and make a right turn around a cone. You should try to bring the right rear wheel(s) of your vehicle as close to the base of the cone as possible without hitting it. Errors will be scored for touching the base of the cone or for missing it by more than six inches. (You will lose more points for touching the cone than for being a few inches too far from it.) The examiner will also score the number of times you stop and change direction during the exercise.

- Right Turn

See figure 11-3.



You must pass the basic control skills test as well as the vehicle inspection and road test before obtaining your CDL.